

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 312

By Kyle

A RESOLUTION to recognize O.C. Pleasant, Jr., on the occasion of his retirement.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this legislative body should honor those citizens who have performed with uncommon devotion and enthusiasm throughout their years of industry; and

WHEREAS, O.C. Pleasant, Jr., is one such estimable person who has served with distinction for thirty years as a Shelby County Election Commissioner, standing as Chair of the Election Commission from 1979 until 2003; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Pleasant was first appointed as a Commissioner on April 4, 1979, and he began his much deserved retirement on April 6, 2009; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his service as an esteemed Election Commissioner, O.C. Pleasant, Jr., has also worked with acumen and alacrity for many years as an employee of the O.C. Pleasant Insurance Agency, a representative of Nationwide Insurance Companies; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Pleasant has been providing insurance and financial services with the Agency since September of 1981; and

WHEREAS, a native of Montgomery, Alabama, O.C. Pleasant, Jr., was educated in the Catholic schools of the Catholic Diocese of Mobile-Birmingham, Alabama; and

WHEREAS, a devout scholar, he graduated from Alabama State University in 1962, receiving a Bachelor of Science degree in Secondary Education; in 1968, he graduated from Memphis State University with a Master of Science degree in Mathematics and Curriculum and Instruction, and he continued his graduate studies in Mathematics at Indiana University, the University of Minnesota, and the University of Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Pleasant worked determinedly as a mathematics teacher in Memphis City Schools from 1963 until 1970, as Supervisor of Employment and Employee Benefits

Services at the Kimberly-Clark Corporation from 1970 until 1978, and as Assistant Professor of Mathematics and Department Head at State Technical Institute in Memphis; and

WHEREAS, O.C. Pleasant, Jr., utilizes his experience and knowledge to enhance the quality of life for those in his community and church through his various leadership roles; and

WHEREAS, he is currently a communicant of St. John Catholic Church, where he serves as a lay minister and lector, and also serves as Chairman of the African American Catholic Ministry Commission, a member of the Strategic Planning Commission, and a member of the Diocesan Development Board, all within the Catholic Diocese of Memphis; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Pleasant stands as Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Memphis Health Center, Inc., past Chairman and member of the Political Action Committee of the Memphis Branch of the NAACP, and Vice President of the Tennessee Association of County Election Officials; and

WHEREAS, he is a valued and respected member of the Board of Directors of Catholic Charities for the Catholic Diocese of Memphis, a member of the Tennessee Real Estate Appraisers Commission, the City of Memphis Mayor's Task Force on Memphis and Shelby County Consolidation, the Tennessee General Assembly Study Committee on Voter Registration and Absentee Voting Reform, and the Bethel Grove Civic Club; and

WHEREAS, in 1977, O.C. Pleasant, Jr., served as a Delegate to the Tennessee Constitutional Convention from State House District 93; and

WHEREAS, he also holds membership with the Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity and is a past president of the Memphis Alumni Chapter as well as a past regional president of the South Central Region; and

WHEREAS, his peerless professional career aside, Mr. Pleasant is most grateful for the love and companionship he shares with his wife, Barbara King; he is the proud father of two children, Darryl and the late Chandra Pleasant; and

WHEREAS, O.C. Pleasant, Jr., truly exemplifies the spirit and allegiance to family and community that is characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, throughout his laudable career, Mr. Pleasant has demonstrated a remarkable ability to motivate others to reach their potential, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of his peers and his community alike; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that hereby honor and recognize O.C. Pleasant, Jr., for his many contributions to the State of Tennessee and its citizens and extend to him our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement and every continued success in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.